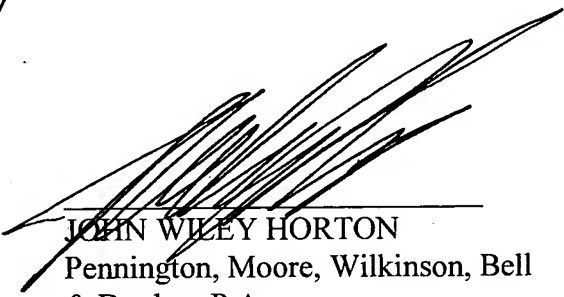




REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitation of two absorbent layers. Claims 2-7 and 17 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, this amendment affects claims 1-7 and 17. In view of these amendments, the Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections.

Respectfully submitted this 3rd day of JANUARY, 2006.



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